

REMARKS

It is not understood why it is contended that Yakou teaches applying securing the sheet to a second sheet while continuing to hold the sheet in a flat configuration. It is not clear what the Examiner considers holding the sheet in a flat configuration. The office action cites the Figures 1-5 and 35-36. Nothing in Figure 1, 3, or 5 seems to show anything about holding the sheet in a flattened configuration. Holding it from the edges would have no such effect. Figures 2 and 4 do show a structure which apparently clamps the sheet 2 to the heating plate 20. It is not clear that the springs provided could supply enough force to actually flatten the sheet. The reference never suggests this is the case. It may be simply a matter of holding the sheet. There seems to be no reason to presume that the clamps supply that level of force needed to flatten distorted or warped glass. This is especially so since the reference never suggests any such thing.

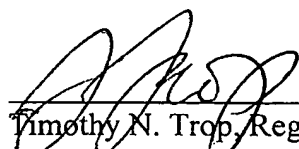
Moreover, in Figures 35 and 36, these clamps have apparently been removed. Thus, even if they had some flattening function, which is doubtful, their absence at the point of attachment of the two sheets demonstrates that the reference fails to teach and, in fact, teaches away from maintaining any flattening when the sheets are attached.

Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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